

A Study to Assess the Occupational Hazards and Health Seeking Behavior among Fishermen at Selected Setting, Chennai

Mrs P. Umalakshmi

Professor, VHS - M.A Chidambaram College of Nursing, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

ABSTRACT

About millions of households depend on fishing for livelihood though it is associated with different types of hazards. Working time does not allow fishermen to get health care for hazards from facilities. Data on occupational hazards and health care seeking is inconclusive in Chennai. This study was undertaken to assess the occupational hazards, associated factors and health seeking of fisherman. A descriptive study involving 30 fishermen conducted from some selected communities Chennai. A pretested questionnaire used to collect information on socio-demography, occupational detail, types of hazards and health seeking behavior of fishermen. The results revealed that, the Mean of occupational hazards score was 4.5 with the Standard deviation was 5.7 and the Mean of health seeking behavior was 84 with the standard deviation was 68.3 and there was a positive correlation between occupational hazards and health seeking behavior among fishermen at 0.05% level of significance and there is a significant association was found with selected variables like age and religion with chi square value of 16.2 and 12.35 at 0.05 level of significance respectively.

KEYWORDS: occupational hazards; health-seeking; fishermen etc

INTRODUCTION

Globally, fisheries support the livelihoods of over half billion peoples (Mandal et al., 2017). It provides nutrition, employment, export and food security (Rahman and Schmidlin 2014; Choo et al., 2015). But, fishing is with the high risk of hazards especially traumatic injury (El-Saadawy et al., 2014). Its global fatality is 80 per 100,000 (Mandal et al., 2017). Its rate is increased for the unsafe working environment (Jelevska et al., 2012). In coastal Bangladesh, about 484,000 households depend on fishing. Near about 12 billion people directly or indirectly depend on fisheries for their income (Mandal et al., 2017). But data on hazards of the fisherman is still unclear in Bangladesh. Fisherman suffers from different physical and psychological stress (Jelevska et al., 2012). Previous study shown 75% fisherman feel musculoskeletal problem and 80% fisherman exposed to accidents during fishing in Bangladesh (Mandel et al., 2017). Fishing is one of the most important economic activities in Asian J. Med. Biol. Res. 2020,

Health or care seeking behavior has been defined as any action undertaken by individuals who perceive

them to have a health problem or to be ill for the purpose of finding an appropriate remedy (Oberoi et al., 2016). In Bangladesh, 47% of the seek people in a rural community sought treatment and rest did not go to health facilities. Since fishermen stay in water for long time the rate of health seeking behavior may be lower than others. We need a clear understanding of occupational hazards and predicting factors of fisherman. The baseline data may contribute to design and implement interventions against future hazards in the study area. The main objective of this study is to explore the health problems and care seeking behavior of fishermen.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

A study to assess the occupational hazards and health seeking behavior among fishermen at selected setting, Chennai.

OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

1. To assess the occupational hazard and health seeking behavior among fishermen group.
2. To correlate the occupational hazard and health seeking behavior among fishermen group.

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3. To associate the occupational hazard and health seeking behavior with demographic variables.

HYPOTHESIS:

- H¹ There will be a significant correlation between occupational hazards and health seeking behavior among fishermen group.
- H² There will be a significant association between occupational hazards and health seeking behavior among fishermen group.

Methodology:

The study was conducted in Pallavakkam, community area, Chennai. Research design of this study is Descriptive research design and non probability convenient sampling technique was used and sample consisted of 30 fishermen. The tool consisted of demographic variables self structured rating scale and observational check list. Informed consent was obtained from the study samples.

Results and Discussion:

The study findings reveals that, the Mean of occupational hazards score was 4.5 with the Standard deviation was 5.7 and the Mean of health seeking behavior was 84 with the standard deviation was 68.3 and there was a positive correlation between occupational hazards and health seeking behavior among fishermen at 0.05% level of significance and there is a significant association was found with selected variables like age and religion with chi square value of 16.2 and 12.35 at 0.05 level of significance respectively,

The study findings was supported by Fatema Kabir Shoshi's et al., 2020 conducted a study on Occupational hazards and health care seeking behavior of fishermen and the study findings reveals that 69 faced different occupational problems during last 6 months. Participants suffered mainly from skin disease (31.7%), musculoskeletal pain (29.7%) and fever (24.3%). Age and duration of profession identified were associated ($P = <.001$) with occupational hazards. Only 7.3% respondents went to facilities to get health care. Nearly one-third of fishermen (31%) took medicine by their own idea. Fishermen who seek care from facilities are low than affected with health hazards.

NURSING IMPLICATIONS

Nurses in all setting should provide the basic health education programme on 5Fs Disease Transmission.

- It helps the health care professionals to gain awareness into the problems faced by fishermen on knowledge regarding occupational health hazards.
- Nursing professionals may arrange regular awareness campaigns to spread the awareness regarding occupational health hazards

- Nursing professionals give guidance and counselling on occupational health hazards
- Nursing professionals may motivate the fishermen about the importance of health seeking behaviour.

NURSING EDUCATOR:

- For nurse educator, there are abundant opportunities to educate the fishermen and general public regarding disease transmission and its prevention
- This study stresses the need for in-service education for the fishermen in order to provide education on hygiene to their fishermen group.
- The nurse educator should take initiation in conducting community based education programme on hygiene and prevention of diseases.

NURSING ADMINISTRATOR

- The nursing administrator may take part in developing protocols, preparing posters and flash cards on hygienic practices in designing the health education programmes and strategies for fishermen group
- The nursing administrator may arrange awareness programme by nursing professionals who have obtained in-service education especially in the hygiene and infection control to fishermen group
- The nurse administrators should explore and encourage innovative ideas in the preparation of an appropriate teaching material
- The nurse administrator should organize sufficient manpower and material for disseminating information regarding hygiene during community visits.

NURSING RESEARCH:

This study helps nurse researchers to conduct researches on other aspects of disease of fishermen

IMPLICATION FOR NURSING

The study finding have its implication in several branches of nursing namely nursing education, nursing practice, nursing

RECOMMENDATION

- A similar study can be done in various other settings.
- A similar study can be done with large samples.
- A comparative study can be done among fishermen in different setting
- A study can be conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of instructional pamphlet in terms of minimizing the usage of electronic gadgets

Ethical considerations

- Ethical committee approval was obtained

- Informed consent was obtained from study participants in language known to them after explaining the purpose of the study.
- Confidentiality was maintained

Conflict of interest: The authors have no conflict of interest to declare

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CONCLUSION

The study concludes on occupational health hazards and health-seeking behavior among fishermen underscores the need for targeted interventions and awareness programs. Addressing the unique challenges faced by this occupational group, such as physical risks and limited access to healthcare, is crucial. By promoting preventive measures, enhancing healthcare accessibility, and raising awareness, we can contribute to the well-being of fishermen and create a safer working environment in the fishing industry.

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